30th October 1931]

Land Revenue

Impending increase in the land revenue of the Salem district.

* 259 Q.—Diwan Bahadur S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the land revenue of the Salem district is going to increase as a result of the re-survey and settlement now going on in the district;

(b) if so, by what percentage and from what year; and

(c) what is the basis on which the increase has been proposed?

A.—(a) *to* (c) The Government have not yet considered the matter. It may be mentioned that in view of the present financial stringency the resettlement of those portions of the district in which resettlement is due before 1934-35 has been postponed to that year. Meanwhile all survey and settlement operations in the district will be suspended.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether orders have been issued suspending the settlement operations in the district of Salem? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—" I think orders have been issued; if not, they are on the point of being issued."

Public Service

Eligibility of Government servants to carry on private trade.

* 260 Q.—Mr. V. T. ARASU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is not a fact that people in Government service are not allowed to carry on private trade or to be engaged in any calling even akin to the nature of the work that they do for the Government as a source of supplemental income;

(b) whether there is any department of Government service in which this rule is suspended; and

(c) if so, what are the special reasons for which this rule has been suspended in those cases?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to rule 15 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules (extract [a] attached).

(b) & (c) The rule is applicable to all departments of Government. In the Medical Department, however, executive medical officers are, subject to certain exceptions, permitted to afford professional assistance to persons unconnected with the Government service and to accept remuneration therefor, provided that their departmental duties are not thereby neglected. The reason for this exception to the general rule is explained in the answer to question No. 21 given on 3rd August 1931.

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[a] Printed as Appendix VI on page 142 infra.

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Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"With reference to the answers to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of the question, may I ask the hon. the Revenue Member whether the Government realize that this privilege undermines the morale of the service?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"I think the hon. Member should address his question to the hon. Minister in charge of the department."

Appointment of Rao Bahadur V. N. Viswanatha Rao as the Law Secretary to Government.

*261 *Q.*—Rao Sahib B. Venkataramayya: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any principles or rules that guide the Government in the selection and in the appointment of Law Secretary to Government;

(*b*) whether the same principles also apply in selecting and appointing persons to acting vacancies;

(*c*) whether the selection of Rao Bahadur V. N. Viswanatha Rao satisfies those conditions;

(*d*) whether the Government intend appointing Rao Bahadur Viswanatha Rao permanently to the Law Secretary's post;

(*e*) whether his probationary period as a Deputy Collector had to be extended for an unusually long period before he could be confirmed as a Deputy Collector and if so, why; and

(*f*) whether it is a fact that even after the said confirmation, Mr. Viswanatha Rao was posted to less onerous duties, and if so, for what reasons?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) There are no special principles or rules governing the selection of officers for appointment as Secretary to Government in the Law Department except that the appointment can be held only by a member of the Indian Civil Service or by a member of the Madras Civil Service holding or selected to hold a 'listed' post in the cadre of the Indian Civil Service. The same principle is followed in the selection of persons for appointment to acting vacancies.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) A Secretary ordinarily holds his appointment as such for a period of three years if he does not proceed on leave but Rao Bahadur Viswanatha Rao is at present holding post of Law Secretary subject to the lien of Rai Bahadur U. Rama Rao who has been deputed to the Legislative Assembly but has not yet completed his term of three years as Law Secretary.